

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 /058 W

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R 160818Z DEC 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4910

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: PRC REPORTING OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S TRIP

1. WHILE THE OFFICIAL PRC MEDIA DID NOT REPORT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S TOUR OF SEVERAL ASIAN COUNTRIES FOLLOWING PRESIDENT FORD'S ASIAN VISIT, THE SELECTION OF FOREIGN NEWS REPORTS FOR FOREIGNERS (THE "BLUE NEWS") CARRIED AN AVERAGE OF TWO WORE SERVICE STORIES PER DAY ON HIS TRAVELS. WE SUSPECT THE TRIP MAY HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR COVERAGE IN THE SEVEN MILLION COPY CHINESE LANGUAGE REFERENCE NEWS BUT HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS.

2. THE ITEMS FROM SEOUL REPORTED THAT HABIB HAD SAID THE U.S. OPPOSED ANY PEACE PARLEYS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA WITHOUT ROK PARTICIPATION, AFFIRMED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE ROK, AND BRIEFED THE KOREANS ON PRESIDENT FORD'S PEKING DISCUSSION ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. THE TAIPEI REPORTS SAID HABIB REASSURED CHIANG CHING-KUO OF

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CONTINUED FRIENDLY U.S. POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND THAT CHIANG

HAD SAID TRUE PEACE IN ASIA COULD BE ATTAINED ONLY THROUGH MAINTAINING FRIENDLY U.S.-TAIWAN TIES. (AN EARLIER DEC.8 AFP ITEM FROM TAIPEI REPORTED AMBASSADOR UNGER HAD MET WITH CHIANG CHING-KUO AND WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE FORD PEKING TRIP.) IN SINGAPORE AND KUALA LUMPUR HABIB WAS AGAIN SAID TO HAVE BRIEFED LEADERS ON THE PEKING VISIT AND ON THE PACIFIC DOCTRINE. THE MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE URGED THE U.S. TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FROM BANGKOK, THE "BLUE NEWS" CARRIED A REPORT OF PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S COMMENTS THAT THE U.S. WAS READY TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LAOS, THAT HABIB HAD BRIEFED HIM ON PRESIDENT FORD'S PEKING VISIT, AND THAT THERE WAS "NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD BECAUSE RELATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA HAVE BEEN IMPROVED."

3. COMMENT: THIS TREATMENT OF THE HABIB VISIT, WHILE HARDLY STARTLING, DOES SHOW INTENSE PRC INTEREST IN THE U.S. BRIEFING OF OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE PRESIDENT'S CHINA TRIP. THE TAIPEI STOP WAS HANDLED SIMILARLY TO THE OTHER VISITS.
THAYER

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